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Progress Ahead!

The spring construction season is soon to start for the Department of Transportation. With temperatures on the rise, the city will again be working to improve the roadway network for the citizens of Baltimore. While driving through construction zones, motorists should proceed with caution and be on the look out for narrow or closed lanes and unusual traffic patterns. Remember to buckle up for safety as we strive to help 'keep Baltimore moving safely'.



March, 2005

Transportation Establishes Conduit Rental Rate Increase

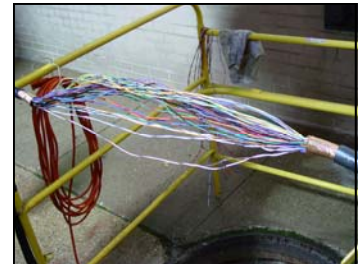
The Department of Transportation has been working diligently to improve operations of the conduit system. Over the years, many agencies were involved in managing various aspects of the city's conduit system, including the Law Department, Finance, Public Works and Transportation. Then in 2001, the Conduit Division was established within the Department of Transportation to consolidate all functions of the system, except for billing and collections.

Once these functions were consolidated, Transportation officials took a close look at conduit operations and how the system was being managed and maintained. The Department also studied the

rental rates being paid to the city by conduit lessees.

In an effort to develop a conduit system that better serves the citizens of Baltimore, the system needs to be upgraded to industry standards. Conduit rental rates, which have not been adjusted in several years, also need to be attuned according to the rules and regulations of the enterprise fund.

On Wednesday, March 02, 2005 the Board of Estimates approved a proposal which allows the Department of Transportation to increase rental rates for conduit lessees. This change in the fee schedule was based solely upon the increased costs of maintaining and operating the conduit system. The proposal



establishes new conduit rental rates through fiscal year 2007.

The rental rate increase will allow the department to upgrade the maintenance of the conduit system in an effort to compete with surrounding metropolitan areas. This is the beginning of a state-of-the-art system for the City of Baltimore!

It's Pothole Season Again in Baltimore

In recent weeks, the Baltimore region has been hit with several winter storms, and snow crews have been out in force salting the roadways to keep city streets safe for commuters. With the snowy weather behind us, road crews are still working around the clock to repair pesky potholes that are springing up all over town.

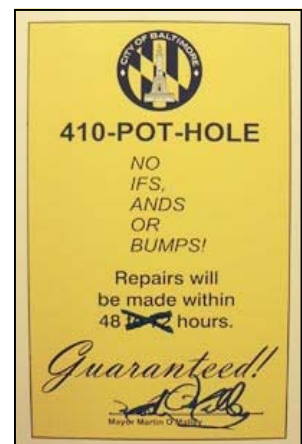
Since the beginning of December, maintenance workers have filled over 6,000 potholes along city streets. A pothole is formed when water seeps into the cracks of a roadway. As temperatures dip below freezing, water in the cracks freezes and expands, causing the asphalt to break apart. Throughout the year, March is typically the busiest month for pothole work, while repairs decrease dramatically

during the summer and fall.

The Maintenance Division repairs potholes as a result of citizen complaints to the city's 311 system. But the majority of potholes are filled as a result of Transportation's proactive roadway repair program. Crews work diligently every day to ensure that Baltimore residents and commuters have a safe and smooth ride.

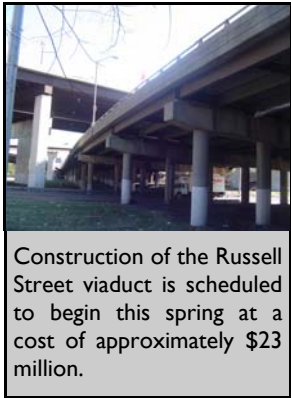
If you see a pothole during your commute, please report it to the city's One-Call Center by dialing 311, 410-POT-HOLE, or by e-mailing the location to pot-hole@baltimorecity.gov. The Mayor and the Department of Transportation continue to stand by the guarantee to the citizens of Baltimore that pesky potholes will

be repaired within 48 hours from the time they are reported, no ifs, ands or bumps about it!



Remember, if you see a problem, report a problem!

Russell Street Construction Soon to Begin



Construction of the Russell Street viaduct is scheduled to begin this spring at a cost of approximately \$23 million.

Great news! The Department of Transportation will soon be replacing the Russell Street viaduct. In the spring of 2005, construction is scheduled to begin on the 1,042 foot long bridge that carries Russell Street over Monroe Street in southwest Baltimore. The original viaduct will be demolished and a new six-lane bridge will be built at a cost of approximately \$23 million.

During construction, which is expected to last about two and a half years, Russell Street will be reduced to three lanes of through traffic. These travel lanes will be reversible throughout the day to accommodate peak hour traffic volumes. Rush hour lane configurations will be adjusted using

overhead traffic signals, similar to those along the Hanover Street Bridge. The viaduct will be demolished one lane at a time, so that three lanes of traffic can safely be maintained for commuters on the remainder of the bridge.

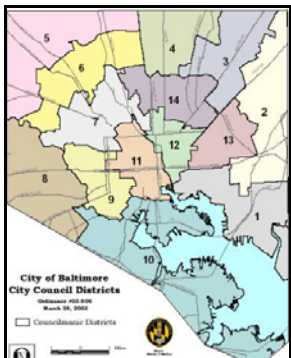
Once the viaduct is complete, then a streetscaping project will begin along Russell Street from the I-95 interchange to the city line. In an effort to improve the gateway's appearance and make it safer for motorists, this portion of Russell Street will be reconstructed with beautification elements such as stone-covered medians, new lighting and landscaping.

Each day, approximately 57,500 vehicles travel along Russell

Street, making it one of the city's most utilized roadways. Construction will certainly impact traffic and motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes, mass transit or to travel during various times of the day to avoid delays. Commuters will need to pay close attention to roadway configurations while traveling through the work zone, as narrow shoulders, lane shifts and changing traffic patterns will occur throughout the life of the project.

For further information including travel tips, a listing of alternate routes, peak hour lane configurations and project updates, log onto www.russellgateway.org.

Transportation Hosting Driving Tours for City Council



The Department of Transportation will be hosting driving tours with City Council representatives.

The Department of Transportation is working closely with the members of City Council to address citizen concerns in various communities. Transportation Director Al Foxx is conducting a series of driving tours with council representatives in order to discuss transportation issues in each of the fourteen districts.

Director Foxx, along with representatives from Transportation's Public Relations Office and the Traffic and Maintenance Divisions, are currently in the process of meeting with City Council members and conducting driving tours in each of their respective districts. City Council President

Sheila Dixon, along with council representatives will have the opportunity to identify areas of concern, while Transportation officials will see first hand the nature of the problems. The driving tours will enable the department to quickly respond to the needs of city communities.

The councilmanic tours began in early March and will be conducted until mid-April. What a great way for Transportation officials and City Council members to work together for the citizens of Baltimore!

Schedule of Driving Tours:

March 02 – James Kraft,
District 1

March 08 – Mary Pat Clarke,
District 14

March 09 – Agnes Welch,
District 9

March 14 – Ken Harris,
District 4

March 17 – Helen Holton,
District 8

March 22 – Robert Curran,
District 3

March 24 – Ed Reisinger,
District 10

March 28 – Stephanie Rawlings
Blake, District 6

March 31 – Rikki Spector,
District 5

April 07 – Keiffer Mitchell,
District 11

April 13 – Bernard Young,
District 12

April 14 – Belinda Conaway,
District 7



The City of Baltimore will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive specifically for Department of Transportation employees on **Thursday, April 28, 2005** from 9:00 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. in the War Memorial Building. Please mark your calendars for this special event and become a hero by giving the gift of life. For more information, contact Melanie Ellis at 396-5965. To learn more about blood donation, log onto www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Improving Baltimore for Bicycling Enthusiasts

The City of Baltimore is developing a comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan in order to identify ways to make Baltimore better suited for bicycling enthusiasts. The goal is to develop a viable biking system within the city by constructing bike routes, improving safety and connecting existing trails with proposed bike lanes.

The Department of Transportation will be working in conjunction with the Planning Department to develop ways to make Baltimore more bicycle friendly. A consulting firm with extensive experience in developing bicycle and pedestrian planning and engineering stud-

ies has been brought on board to assist with the planning process. In addition, a Bicycle Master Plan Technical Committee has been established to oversee planning efforts. Representatives from a variety of city agencies including Transportation, Planning, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks are part of the committee, as well as officials from the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. Once the plan is complete this fall, citizens will have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposals.

On January 13th, the city held

its first in a series of public forums with over 100 bicycling enthusiasts to hear suggestions on how Baltimore can be improved for cyclists to keep up with competing metropolitan areas. Many valuable ideas were discussed and will be taken into consideration during the development of the master plan.

If you have a suggestion on how Baltimore can become a more biker-friendly city, contact Fred Shoken of Transportation's Planning Section at 443-984-1959 or visit the city's online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=86355743450.



The City of Baltimore held its first public forum to discuss how Baltimore can become more bicycle friendly.

March 2005 is Disabilities Awareness Month

March, 2005 has been recently designated as Disabilities Awareness Month in Baltimore City. The Baltimore City Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, the Parking Authority of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Police Department, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Motor Vehicle Administration have teamed up to educate the public on the appropriate use of disability license plates and parking placards.

Handicapped accessible parking spaces are reserved for people

with disabilities who have been issued special license plates or parking placards by the Motor Vehicle Administration. If you do not have a disability, then using one of these spaces, **even for just a minute** is 60 seconds too long. Illegally using a designated handicapped parking area infringes upon the rights of disabled citizens and immediately becomes an enforceable violation.

If you have a disability, be sure to always carry the identification card issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration which shows you as the authorized user of the disability plate or

parking placard.

On **Tuesday, March 15, 2005** the Baltimore City Department of Transportation will have Parking Control Agents out in force to target the most frequented handicapped parking violation locations. Agents will search these locations for violators and issue citations to those who fail to follow the proper regulations and guidelines.

For additional information or questions about Disabilities Awareness Month, contact Dr. Nollie Woods, Jr., Mayor's Commission on Disabilities at 443-984-1617.



The City of Baltimore has designated March, 2005 as Disabilities Awareness Month.

Clean Commute Month is Coming!

Mark your calendars! **May is Clean Commute Month.** In an effort to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion in the Baltimore region, the Baltimore City Rideshare Program will partner with the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board and the Clean Commute Partnership to sponsor the

6th annual 'Clean Commute Month' in May, 2005. During Clean Commute Month, motorists who typically drive alone are encouraged to try an alternative form of commuting, such as ridesharing or public transit.

Be sure to participate in 'Bike to

Work Day', which will be held on May 06th from 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. at the Inner Harbor. For more information, call the Baltimore City Rideshare Office at (410) 396-7665 or contact Jamie Bridges of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council at 410-732-0500, extension 1053.

CLEAN
COMMUTE
PARTNERSHIP



Baltimore City
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Alfred H. Foxx, Director
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BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



(410) 396-POOL

Department of Transportation
Public Information Office
Contact: David Brown
Kathy Chopper
Office: 410-361-9296
Fax: 410-527-1036

BELIEVE

The Birds Will Soon be Back in Town!

The smell of the hotdogs and Boog Powell's famous bar-b-q. The crack of the bat and the roar of the crowd. Ahhhh, the smells and sounds of baseball! With spring training now in full swing, the Birds will soon be back in Baltimore and ready for opening day.

The Baltimore Orioles will host their first home game of the season on Monday, April 4th beginning at 3:05 p.m. Oriole Park at Camden Yards will be bustling with excitement as the O's take on the Oakland Athletics. With the addition of heavy hitter Sammy Sosa and left handed pitcher Tony Saunders, this could be the comeback year for the Orioles.

During the baseball season, Oriole fans should be mindful of area residents while visiting Camden Yards. When attending a home game, motorists should utilize public parking facilities and avoid parking in nearby communities. All area parking restrictions and neighborhood parking permit regulations will be strictly enforced throughout the season for everyone's safety. Vehicles that are parked illegally are subject to being ticketed and towed.

Motorists should also be mindful of temporary street closures in the vicinity of the stadium. Portions of Eutaw Street, Camden Street and Lee Street are typically closed dur-

ing each event for pre-game activities and the safety of pedestrians. Special Traffic Enforcement Officers (STEO's) will be placed in strategic locations to assist with the flow of traffic in the downtown area.

The Department of Transportation wishes the Baltimore Orioles a successful 2005 season. See you at Oriole Park at Camden Yards during the seventh inning stretch!



Lunch With the Elephants

Come celebrate one of Baltimore's most favorite traditions, 'Lunch with the Elephants' at Lexington Market on Wednesday, March 16, from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. Spectators can follow the astounding Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's elephants while the Baltimore City Police and Transportation's Traffic crews escort the

pachyderms from the 1st Mariner Arena, along Eutaw Street to the Lexington Market south parking lot.

Once at the Market, the elephants will feast on the world's largest vegetarian buffet consisting of oranges, apples, lettuce, bananas, pears and carrots. Baltimore is the

only city in the nation to host such an event each year.

Come enjoy the live music and authentic circus clowns on March 16th as you have lunch with some of the star performers of the circus!



Tax Day Quickly Approaching

Attention all employees! It's that time of year again. Time to file your federal and state income taxes. The tax forms have been mailed, your W-2 forms were dispersed, and the rush is on as tax day quickly approaches.

For those who wait until the April 15th deadline to file their taxes, the city's main post office will be open until midnight to accept the last minute returns. Postal employees will be stationed outside of the post office, located at 900 East Fay-

ette Street, collecting tax returns until the midnight deadline. During this time, parking will be prohibited along both sides of Fayette Street in the vicinity of the post office so that the curb lanes can be used as dedicated 'drop off' lanes for citizens mailing their tax information.

Citizens are encouraged to beat the midnight rush by filing their taxes before the April 15th deadline. City employees who need a duplicate copy of their W-2 forms should contact

Central Payroll at 396-3751. The forms can be picked up on the 8th floor of the MECU Building at a cost of \$5.00.

For downloadable tax forms and filing information including the new 'Free File' online tax preparation and electronic filing program, log onto www.IRS.gov.

